come to it and all oncouered i ſuche maner that it rained in at euery corner ſo that no man could ſtande drye in it whan it was foule wedder for lacke of reperacion/the whyche he with his ſubtyll maners cauſed to be amended in ſhorte tyme after of the payſans his pariſſheners as her after ſhalbe ſhewed. ¶Alſo he called vpon them for his offerynges and dymes or tythes/ſaynge to them ye muſt helpe to mayntaygne the temple of god/and dele me parte of your goodes or catell/as ſhepe or kyne/your myſe & your chyldren alſo/for I haue charge of all your ſowles and I muſt anſwere for you all before the face of god at the dredfull day of dome.

¶Howe the parſon be his wyles cauſeth the churche to be couered.

W.l. p. 1531.

Whan this parson had kepte his cure a ly
tell whyle and se that he coude nat stand
drye to do the scrupce of almyghty god / with a
proper wyle he come to his Parisshioners and
sayde / My frendes we shal encreas the seruice
and honoure of almighty god / and also the pla-
ce where as the seruice ought to be done in / and
because that therto we shold haue a gode begin
inge let vs take a gode auysement and let vs co-
uer our churche / and I wyll geue you chops of
two thinges whiche ye wyll do to thentent that
our church may be couered so that ye may stāde
drye to here the seruice of almighty god and I
drye to do it. And I geue you chose whether ye
wyll couer the body of the churche or ellys the
quere / and without auysement takynge as gre-
dy people answered their parson thus / sayinge
maister parson we thanke you of your gode pro
fer / yf ye be so content we wyll couer the quere
because we be nat able to couer the body of our
churche / the parson hering this was right glad
and saide he was content. Thus the paysans be
gan the quere and ended it with all their dilgēs
thynkynge that the parson sholde couer the rest /
and whan they had done and that their Quere
was couered they asked of their parson whan he
wolde couer the remenant / and he answered I
saide my frendes yf ye haue couered the quere /

ye haue done that ye ought to do/therfore be cō-
tent for I am well content/I se well that I shall
stande drye and out of the rayne to do Goddes
seruice/and the best coūsell that I can geue you
is that ye couer vp the remenāt/& than ye shall
stande drye also. The papsans hering this ware
meruelously angry and cursſed the preste/and
began to crye out vpon hym the one with a mis-
chefe the other with a vengeaūce/the third bed
the deuyll bere hym away. &c. Thus they were
all abasshed of their parsons subtyll wyles and
yet they were fayn to couer their churche them
selfe for any cost that the preste wolde do therto
or cause to be done/for he stode drye ynough to
do goddes seruice/& than he cared nat for them
for they cared before as lytell for hym.

How we the parson beshote the cler
kes capes and the place where
as he sholde spit in the chur
che.

IT befell vpon a seson that the parson was very seke / so that he coude nou-ther ete nor drynke / and herof herde the paryssye clerke / and thoughte in hymselfe I faythe our parson is so wylye yet I wyll begyle hym ones nowe if I can / and went to the parson and visyted hym / wherof the par-son was right gladde and shewed to the clercke his disease / and the clerke thinkynge hymselfe very wyse / and answered the parson saing thus maister parson be of gode chere and I wyll ma ke you a Recept that shall be very gode for you for it hathe holpen many a gode body / the par-son this heryng thanked his clerke with all his harte / and than went the clerke home and ma-de hym a recept of lyne sede because the parson sholde beshyte his bed / and whan it was made he brought it to the parson and made hym bele ue that it was very costly / and bed him take it at foure a clocke in the mornynge / and he sholde fynde therin great ease / The parson dyd be the clerkes counsell and toke this medecyne at the houre assigned on the mornynge folowynge / & his cōdicion was how seke that he was he dyd e uery day masse / & shortly after this recept recey uinge his bely began to swelle / he thoughte no harme but went to church and thought to haue done masse / & such a laske come vpon hym that

he coude nat go home/ and incontynent he perceyued wel that it come of the clerkes falshode/ and by and by he loked for the Clerkes kayes and founde them and all to be shote theym/ and by and by to it he must agayn/ and than he wēt to the clerkes seat and all to be shote it bothe vnder his fete and where as he sate/ and than for gladnes that he had yelded the clerke of all his gode wyl he was euyn hole and prepared hym selfe to go to masse (and dyd masse) and whā the masse was done the clerke sought the kayes to shyt the church dore agayn be the place where as he was wont to syt/ & in reching of his kayes he set his fote in a torde and slyppered with his elbowe in the other and all to arayd his hādes and his one syde as yf .xx. men had shytē vpon hym/ and durst say nothinge for fere lest that he sholde be mocked/ but gate a brome and water for to make hym and his seat clene and to wasshe his kayes/ all this whyle the parson stode in a corner beholdynge the clerke that was so besy to clense away another mānes torde and loughe saynge to the clerke nowe thou arte serued a right/ for thou thoughtest to begyle me and I haue begyled the/ and so be al they worthy that thynke to begyle another.

¶ Howe the parson wolde fle ouer the ryuer of Tonewa.

OVr parson of kalenborow had wyne in his seler whiche was marred/and because he wold haue no losse be it he practysed a wyle to be ridde of it/and caused it to be publysshed in many Parysshens there about that the parson of kalenborow ata daye assigned wolde fle ouer the reuer of Tonowa fromethe steppll of his churche/and this he proclaymed in his owne parisshe also/and than he caused.ij. wynges of petockes fedders to be made/and also he caused his noughty wynes to be brought vnder the churche steppll where as he sholde stande for to fle ouer the reuer/and he gaue the clerke charge of his wyne because he sholde sell it well and dere to the moste profyte. ¶ And whan the day was come that the parson

ſholde fle/ many one come thyder to ſe the mar-
uayle/ frome farre countrees/ and than the par-
ſon went vpō the ſteppll arayed lyke an an-
gell redy for to fle/ and there he flickered oftētymes
with his wynges but he ſtode ſtyll. In the mean
whyle that the people ſtode ſo to beholde hym/
the ſoñe ſhone hote and they had great thurſte/
for the preſte dyd nat fle/ and he ſe that and bec-
kened to them ſayinge ye good people my tyme
is nat yet to fle/ but tarp a whyle and ye ſhall ſe
what I ſhall do/ and than the people went and
dronke apace of this wyn that they ſe ther for to
ſell/ and they dronke ſo longe that they coude
gete nomore wyne for money and cryed out for
drynke and made great preas/ and within a ly-
tell whyle after the clerke come to the parſon &
ſayde ſir your wyne is all ſolde and well payde
for though there had ben more/ The parſon be-
inge very gladde of this tydinges began to flic
ker with his wynges agayne/ and called with a
lowde voyce vnto the peple/ ſaing harke/ harke
harke/ is there any amonge you all that euer ſe
man haue wiges or fle/ there ſtepped one furth
and ſayd nay ſir nay/ the parſon anſered agayn
and ſayd/ nor neuer ſhall be my fay. ¶ Therfor
go your wayes home euerychone and ſay that
ye haue dronke vp the perſon of Kalenborc wy-
cyll wynes and payd for it well & truly more
than euer it coſt hym/ than ware the vilayns or

paysauns meruelously angry/and in their lan-
guage curssed the parson perillously/some with
a myscheue/and vengeaũce/and some sayd god
geue hym an hondred drouse/for he hathe ma-
de amonge vs many a fole and totynge ape.
But the parson Cared nat for all theyr cursses
And this subtyle dede was spred all the conutre
about. ¶ Nat far thens there dwelled an
olde preste that enuyed this parson of kalenbo-
rowe and that wolde come to hym/and se hym/
and thought howe he myght begyle hym with
a proper wyle/for the olde preste was very wy-
se and wolde haue argued with hym/and the
parson herde of the olde prestes intencyon bed
hym welcome/and in shorte cõclusyon they ar-
gued sore but the parson helde the ouer hande/
wherof he had great honoure. Than sayd he to
the olde preste thou gray heded fole thou had est
ben better nat to haue argued for thou art ouer-
come to thy dishonoure/for thy clargye fayleth
Nowe nomore of this sayde the parson/but let
vs go togeder and make gode chere/and the o-
ther desyred also to assay of the parsons wyne.

¶ Howe the parson gaue shillynges to
euery one in his parysshe to thentent
that they sholde offer it the next daye
at the olde prestis masse for to begyle
hym to cause him chaũge benefices.

Whan the parſon of kalenborowe parceiued that tholde preſte wolde abyde with hym the next day/ he pmagined how to begyle the olde preſte by ſome ſubtyll maner and wyle and went to his parysshyeners and cõmaunded them all to come the next daye to the hye maſſe vpon payn of that that may befall for a ſtraũge parſon ſholde do the maſſe/ and gaue to eche of theym a ſhelynge for to offer at that maſſe and bed them be ſtyll and ſay nothynge therof/ and the next daye the olde preſte dyd the maſſe and the people offered ſhillynges/ wherof the olde preſte maruayled ſore/ and this ſeynge he was ſtrycken with anarpce and thought/ offer they

nowe so moche/ what offer they than on highe
festefull dayes/ I sayde to hymselfe gode lorde
yf I had this benefice for myn. And whan the
masse was done/ the parson led the olde preste
to his parsonage with great reuerēce and there
made hym gode chere so that they were all me-
ry and gladde and dronke the wyne right plen
teously/ and after dyner the parson asked the ol
de preste what game he wolde go to/ and he an-
swered agayne sainge thus/ maister parson we
be well here take no displesure/ but what say ye
to this wyll ye chaunge benefyce with me your
churche for myne/ And late vs passe the tyme
with suche cōmunycacion/ incontynent the par
son of kalenborowe was well content and ther
of they made a bargayn and it abode a bargain
¶ Tuhs whan they had made gode chere toge-
der thre or foure dayes and dronke the wyne as
merely/ and plenteously as it had bene water/
and after all gode cheres made and gode pasty
mes done/ than thei began to comon of their de
partynge/ and so the parson of kalenborowe de-
parted from thens to his newe parsonage that
was moche better than his/ and the olde preste
abode at kalenborowe where as he was lighte
ly wery/ for he se nomore the gode offerynges
that he had sene be the other parsons tyme be-
fore his dayes/ wherfore he was right sory and

ſad that he had made ſuche a folyſſhe bargayne and ment to his peple and demaunded of them what it ment that they had offered ſomoche in their other parſons tyme and that they as now in his tyme offred ſo lytell/they anſwerd agayn and ſayd/ſir the ſhelynges that we offered here at your firſt cõmynge hether was to your abuſi on/for he gaue to eche of vs within this pariſſh twelue pens to thẽtent that we ſholde offer that in preſence of you/ & whan the olde preſte herde this/he cryed out alas this fals preſte hathe deſ cepued me/I wyll go to hym agayne and ſe yf I can gete myn olde benefice agayne and geue hym ſome lytell parcell of money to bote/whan he come to the other he made a pyteous cõplaĩt and ſayd that he was foully deſcepued whiche was for faut of a lytell gode ouerſight/& praied hym to do ſo moche for hym as to chaunge be- nefyce agayn with hym vpon as gode a tourne another tyme/The parſon anſwered agayne & ſayde what ſayſt/I had went that ye had bene the wyſeſt and moſte ſubtyll/and worſte to deſ- cepue of any olde man in all this londe rownde about/but wel I perceyue the contrarye in this cauſe/for ye thought to haue begyled me with your olde ſubtyll wyles/but therof I had perſe- uerans lõge beforehande Therfor yf ye wyl ha ue your bñfyce agayne laye downe .xl. li. to a

repentaunce and I wyll tourne to myn olde ho
me agayne with that money and ellys nat.
¶ The olde preste beynge very angry sayd it is
to moche/but rather than I wold abyde lenger
at kalenborowe amonge those vylaynes/I had
leuer geue this money than to lyue in pouertye
and penury for they neuer brought me kardige
to offerynge yet/and with an angry wyll curs-
sed hym and bande hym/and gaue hym the.xl.
pounde with many a thousande drouse sayinge
in his language be goddes leuer hans/nowe
may I curse the tyme that euer I met with the
and so departed. And anone thys was knowen
thrughout all the contre/so farre that it come to
the bysshopes eare/of these mad topes the bys-
shope maruayled sore/and sent for this parson
of kalenborowe for to se yf the reportis of hym
ware trewe.

¶ Howe the Parson of kalenbrowe
come to the bisshope and obeyed
his cõmaundement.

Gonuenyly be the cõmaunde-
ment of the bysshope the which
the parson wolde obey/incompy-
nent after the messagers depar-
tynge he Sadeled a lowe lytell
mare somwhate hyer than thre
horse loues/ and so lepte he into
the sadell and set hym on his Journey with his
one fote hanginge on the groũde and the other
as yf it had ben cast ouer the sadell/ and so come
to the bysshopes Courte where as the bysshope
lened before the gate/ and the bysshope this se-
ynge laughed hartely/ and asked of the parson
howe he come so rydunge/the parson answered
and sayde my lorde I ryde nat/The bisshope as-
ked hym howe than goest thou on fote/he sayde
nay my Lorde I come hangynge on my Mare
vnto your grace/the whiche shall auantage me
but lytell saue only that I shall gete a wyde arse
for my labour. The bisshope herynge this went
his way & thought he had bene folysshe/ Than
sayde the gentylmen to the parson how spekest
thou so to my lorde/the parson answered be cõ-
tent my gode frendes/but or we gothe my lorde
thus away/dothe he se me for a fole/I trow my
lorde be blynde/Than sayd one to hym he seeth
nat very well. A ha quod the parson gothe the
game so/and my lorde wyll do be my counsayl

I wyll cause hym to se twyse better be the mor-
nynge than he dothe nowe. ¶ This was sayd
vnto the bysshope/and the bysshope asked hym yf
he coude helpe hym thinkynge to assay his con
nynge the parson sayd ye my lorde and ye wyll
do be my counsell and ye shall nat leue all your
olde vses/but reuerende fader you shall gete som
fayre creatur and lighten your nature often ty
mes on her/ labouringe with your plowghe in
Venus aker/ and than ye shall well perceyue that
your sight shalbe greatly amēdyd or it be to mo
rowe daye The bysshope had wende it had bene
trewe and beleued hym well/saing it is an hap
what may helpe me. Thus he caused a faire cre
ature to be brought to his bedde/ and dyd with
hir after the counsell of the parson often tymes
or daye laboured sore/but or the day dyd sprige
the bysshope had laboured so sore with his fayr
gentyll woman that his braynes were as dasy
as a gose/ and sayde to her my fayre doughter
let vs leue this medecyne/for it is somwhate to
dangerus for me to dele with/ for ye sholde ma
ke me starke blynde yf I sholde vse this mede-
cyne longe/and than he turned hym about and
so toke his ease and slept tyll it was daye.

¶ Howe the parson dyd lede the Bisshope on the mornynge about the churcheyerde & thrugh his gode medecyne the bisshope se.ij. steples where as stode but one.

In the mornynge after that the Bysshope was rysen the parson yode vnto hym and sayd/ Reuerend fader lat vs go into the ayre and that shall refresshe you well after your medecyne for it shal quicken your sightes/and than ye shall se whether it be amendyd or not. ¶ The bisshope ther with beīge cōtent/they went togeder about the churchyerde/thā sayd the bisshop your cōninge

hathe holpen me well/ for yesterdaye I se here but one churche and one steple / and nowe I do se.ij.churches and.ij.steples. Well reuerend fader wene ye that I am a fole / ye may nowe for my cōmynge geue me a gode benfyce for I haue well deserued it. Therwith the bysshope laughed hartely for to se howe couertly the parson coude vtter his wyles and falshod with folisshe fantasyes/he sholde haue holpen hym of his disease/and he brought hym to that poynte that he coude scant stande vpon his fete for the dasynes of his hede. Than the parson was bed to dyner with the bisshope/and after dyner toke his leue of the bisshope and wolde haue bene gone. The bisshope seynge that/ because he was mery and full of madde toyse he wolde nat let hym go but sayde to hym ye must abyde with me and ryde with me to all churche holowynges & chapellis of the which wordes the parson was nothynge gladde nor well apayde but thought howe that he myght brynge vnto purpose that he myght abyde at home.

¶ Howe the parson of Kalenborowe gaue money vnto the bisshopes lady paramours and prayed her to helpe hym that he myght byde at home.

The parſon of Halenborowe perceyuynge that the bysshope wolde haue hym with hym to euery churche holowynge he ſought a wyle to byde at home and kepe howſe with his ſeruant or wenche for it was moſte his eaſe / and incontynent he went to the Bysshopes ſouerayne lady and prayed her that ſhe wolde helpe hym / that he myght byde at home / and nat go to no churche halowynge and I wyll gyue you a gode rewar-

de/she answered agayne and sayd that is nat in my power/ the parson sayd yes/and sayd holde here a pursse with money for your labour. for I knowe well the bysshope wyll lay with you to night/thus I pray you to shewe me the hour of his cōmyng that I than may lay vnder the bed She answered and saide/than come at seuen of the clocke/ for eight of the clocke is his houre/ and in the meane season she prepared the chā-ber lyke an erthely paradyse and sett rownde a bout the wallis of it candellis burnynge bright against the bisshopes cōmyng/and at the houre assigned the parson come and crepte vnder the bedde in her chamber/ whan the bisshope com he meruayled sore to se this sight and asked her what it ment/ My lorde she saide this is for the honoure of you/ for this nyght I hope ye wyll halowe my lytell chapel standyng benethe my nauyll in venus valaye and that by and by/or el lys from hens forth I wyll shewe you no point of loue whylst I leue.

¶ Howe the bisshope holowed the chapell where as the parson lay vnder the bedde.

The bysshope went to bedde with his
souerayn lady and he fulfylled al her
desyre and began to holowe her cha-
pell to the best of his power. The par
son layngе vnder the bedde herd this rightwell
and began for to synge with a hye voyce lyke as
they do at euery church holowynge in this ma-
ner/Terribilis est locus iste.&c. wherof the bis-
shop marueyled & was abasshed/& blessed hym

with the signe of the holy crosse / and wenynge to hym that the deuyll had bene in the chamber and wolde haue conjured hym. Than spake the parson lapnge vnder the bedde with grete haste sapnge thus (and with that he crepte out) Reuerende fader I fere so sore to breke pour cõmañdement that I had leuer crepe on hande and fote to fulfyll pour mynde and wyll than to be absent at any of all pour churche holowiges / and for that cause I wolde be at this chapell also / the bysshope sayde I had nat called the to be at the holowynge hereof / I trowe the deuyll brought the hether / get the hens out of my sight & come nomore to me / my lorde I thanke pou and also pour lady paramours Thus went the preste on his way and thanked god that he was so ryddc frome the bysshope / and so come home & kepte house with his fayr wenche as he was wont to do / the whiche was glad of his cõmynge home for she had great disease of suche thynges as he was wonte to helpe her of. And some that enuyed the preste shewed the bysshop that he had suche a fayre wenche. And because he had layde vnder the bysshops bedde and playde hym that false touche / the Bisshope sent a cõmyssion vnto hym that vpon payne of cursynge he shold put awaye frome hym his ponge lusty wenche and to kepe his house / that he shold take an olde wo-

man of .xl. yere of age or ellys he sholde be put in pryson. The parson hering this/ made a gret mournynge complaynt to his wenche and said now must I wasshe and plasshe/ wringe & singe and do al my besines my selfe/ wherof she gaue hym gode cōforte and said the whele of fortune shall iurne ones againe and so departed for a se son/ and than he toke gode hert a grece and said to hiselfe noforce/ yet shall I begyle hym for I wyll kepe .ij. wentches of .xx. yere of age. and twise .xx. maketh .xl. holde thyne owne parson.

¶ Here rydeth the fornamed Duches alonge the water of Kalenborowe where as she se the parson stande shamful ly wasshinge with his arse to tynge into the ayre whereof she was halfe ashamed.

Upon a season it fortuned that the Duches rode a sportynge a longe the ryuer of kalenborowe where as she se the parson stande wasshynge and she wyst nat what it was/ and because that she wold knowe/ she sent a gentylman of hers to se what it was/ and he perceyued well that it was the parson that stode there wasshing in the moste shamfullest maner that euer he sawe/ and he himself was a mery gester and laughed apace therat and so come with a mery countenaunce to the duches desyringe her to come and se what it was and she sholde laughe at it as well as he/ for the parson was than more lyker a monster than a cristen body. The lady whiche lysted well for to be mery rode towarde the wassher/ and whan she come nye hande hym she knewe hym well/ the parson perceiuinge well that the duches com to beholde hym as a man without shame he stoped lowe with his hed for to wasse/ and his bare ars toted up toward the ayre/ and his frappinge galand hanged betwene his legges wagginge frome one syde to another and abode styll wasshinge without enshame. The lady beholdynge hym well sayde fye on the lewde preste arte nat thou ashamed to stand thus here and wasshe in this maner/ haste thou behaued thyselfe so that thou canst nat gete a womā seruand to hepe thy

house and wasshe thy clothes. than arte thou ve
ry lewde of thy condicions that none wyll byde
with the / than it is pyte that thou leuest / And so
she departed. whan she was come home her lor
de asked her what tydinges / and she vp and told
hym all that she had sene of the parson of kalen
borowe wherat they laughed meruelously sore
and had great game and sporte all that day and
the duke sayde forsothe my parson is a gode ho-
nest man / and thus was the parson cause of all
their gode myrth and pastyme.

¶ Howe the duches desyred lycence
of her lorde for to ride to the par
son of kalenborowes place
that she myght haue
some pastyme whi-
che was grau-
ted her.

he beinge glad gate her quickely on horsbacke and sett her forward on her iourney/ the duke seing this laughed apace and sayd our lorde be with you I trust my parson will receyue you worthely & entreat you very well/ the whiche he had great desyre to here of/ the parson herd say that the lady was come to visite him wherof he was right glad and went with all his diligence for to mete her and welcomed her right louyngly and dyd bryng her home vnto his parsonage/ and by & by made a gret fyre and set a grete many of pottes about it full of water/ The Duches beheldе hym well and sayd/ Sir must ye be your owne coke to/ I se you the last day wasshe your clothis your selfe in aright shamful maner also/ I haue maruayle that ye haue nat one to tende you/ I pray you tell me now be your fayth haue ye no woman parsone in this howse to do your besynes. The parson answered and sayd Gracious lady it is nat longe agone that I was cõmaũded by the bysshope that I sholde put awaye fro me my ponge mayden seruant and take an olde woman of .xl. yere of age/ whiche lyked me right shrodly/ and I surmysed in my selfe/ that it ware better for me to take two ponge women eche of xx. yere of age/ for twyse .xx. maketh .xl. than to take an olde one that wold go coggyng & spetting

chydinge and braulinge alwaye about the hou
se/and I despre nothinge but mprthe and sporte
for a ponge wenche with a merp coũtenaũce is
a mãnes erthely paradyse and a worlde full of
plesure/and an olde woman is a ponge mãnes
dethe/therfore I had leuer the ponge wenches
but alwaye whan there come any body he cau-
sed the wenches to go out of the way for becau-
se that the bysshope shold nat knowe that he did
his worke himselfe. Gode sir I prap you let me
se your wenches or seruantes And I geue you
leue to kepe them/and I wyll answere for you
before the bysshope. ¶ Than he called forthe his
fayre seruantes and through his fayre prayn-
ges he was consented to kepe them/& the gode
lady gaue eche of them a pece of golde to drink
wherof the parson thanked her. After this the
duches went towarde the herth to se what gode
mete the parson had to dyner/where as she se a
grete many of potts full of water and no mete
therin/than she sayd here is shrode puruoyans
towardes dyner to make gode chere/me thynk
ye forgete vs/madame he sayde I had went ye
had ben so wyse to haue brought mete with you
and therfore I ordeyned water to dresse it with
and also I fered that your ladyshep wolde haue
bene angry and disdayned my metys yf I had
brought it forthe/and that ye wolde haue asked

me if pe had nede of my mete. Thus for to kepe
peas and to spare the cost I haue left all thinge
vndone/ for it wolde haue cost me as mochе as
I wolde haue spente in a pere. The gentyll lady
was noble of cõdicyons and toke all these toyse
in gode worth and sayd maister parson syt dow-
ne by me and let vs talke togeder/ than sayd he
gracious lady it is here to colde I wyll warme
you the hote chamber and put fyre in the stewe
than may pe sitt warme/ and by and by he went
to the churche and fetched the twelue apostels
and put them in the ouen of the stewe and brent
them. ¶ The noble lady perceiuynge this/ was
meruelously angry and blamed the parson sore
geuynge hym many a shrode worde/ and sayde
fy on the that mocketh thus with almighty god
I marualy that god taketh nat vengeaunce on
the. Than saide the parson/ nay gracyous lady
I do it for your sake because that pe sholde war-
me you be these olde apostels for I thynke you
so gode and gracious that pe wyll for these olde
rotten peces geue vs goodly newe ymages for
to chere our pore churche with. The gracyous
lady perceiuynge his mynde very well/ graun-
ted hym that he sholde cause newe ymages for
to be made/ and she wolde pay for them/ and be
cause he had practised that so properly she gaue
hym a gode reward for his laboure besydes/

and thanked hym hartely of his gode plesaunt pastyme/and so she departed and at her cōmige home she rehersed her noble lorde of the parsō and his madde toyes/wherate he loughe right hartely and had grete game and sporte.

¶ Howe the parson brought.ij.paysanus of his parisshe naked into the dukes hall before the duke and his gestis all wherwith they laghed all right hartely.

It befell vpon a sondaye that the parson went out of the dukes courte and founde .iij. of his parysshyoners standynge at the gate and he asked them what their desire were/and they answered and sayde we wolde fayne speke with my lorde the Duke/If ye wyll helpe vs that we maye speke with hym we wyll deserue it vnto you/the parson sayd tary me here a lytell whyle and I wyll go loke yf the duke be within/and incontynent he come rōnynge to them agayn in grete haste and sayd hye you a pase and put of your clothes quickely for ye come neuer in better tyme/for my lorde is nowe alone in the hote howse/and ye shall speke with hym or euer there come more company wherof they were right glade/and the parson tolde them that the duke was mylde and liberall/that they shold aske of hym what bowne they wolde and he sholde graūt it them. Than sayd they to eche other we wyll auenture it/for it is nouther felonye nor treason/and the parson went into the hall before them/and led them with hym holdinge his peas as yf he had bene dōme/ and thus come they into the halle where as the duke with many noble gētylmen sate at dyner/wherof the paysauns were sore ashamed and sayd to their parson helpe vs out a gayne for this is no hote howse auengeaūs on

ige and began to swet for very pure anger and fere/whan they se they myselfe naked before all those states and cowd nat hyde their genitories the lordes and states laghed a grete pace to se the falshode of the parson and asked of hym what he ment/but what they sayde the parson was bothe dōme and defe. Than sayde the duke the parson must be to daye my geste for now the devyll hathe borne away his tonge/gracyous lorde sayd one of the paysans than/we had nat wēt that he wolde haue serued vs thus/for we desyred hym that he wolde helpe vs to come to your presens and spethe for suche materes as we had a do/and natthinkynge that he wolde make soles of vs/wherfore as your lordshyp may se god taketh vengeaunce vpon hym for this shamfull dede that you here se/be contēt my frendes sayd the duke/for what so euer ye desyre of me it shal fortune you. Than sayde the parson ye vilayne paysans I tolde you before my lorde sholde shewe his grace vnto you/therfore nowther curse me nor ban me for ye fynde my wordes trewe/and ye haue swette as well as yf ye had bene in a hote house Than sayde the duke thanked be god that the parson can spekе agaynst/for thorugh his gode predicacyō many a sowle shalbe brought to heuen. The noble duke beheldе the parson wel and loked on his fete/and spied that the

soles fell of frome his shone all dirtye and ful of
mure rapnge the house therwith to shamfully
wherfore the duke sayd to him thou arte a foule
slouthful man/ and than called to him his stewar-
de and cõmaunded hym to bye hym a payre of
newe shone/ the parsou answered/ my lorde I
wyl no newe shone haue/ but I pray you to geue
him asmoche as to pay for the clouting of these
the whiche was graũted him with gode wyll.

¶ Howe the parson bringeth his shone to
the goldsmyth to clout thẽ with siluer.

After that the duke had cõsented him
to pay for the clouting of his shose/
he went streght to the goldsmith and
bargayned with him that he sholde
ouerlap them with siluer plates and nayle thez
with siluer pynnes/ and the goldsmith bed him
come the fourthe daye after and fetche them for
than they sholde be done/ and that he sholde as
than nat fayle to brynge with him for the clou-
tinge of his shose. xx. golde gyldõs/ which moũ-
teth in siluer to. xx. oũces/ the preste went to the
steward and asked hi if he wold go with him to fet

out his shone/and the steward said nay/ but wet to his purse and wolde haue geuen the parson the worthe of a grote or.vi.pens to haue fetched out his shone and the parson sayd nay I wyl nat haue that money for it shall coste moche more/ therfore come with me pour selfe and pe shal se how they be clouted/and lowse them than with a penp if pe can/ Thus went the stewarde with the parson that led him to the goldsmithis hous and saide maister stewarde here be my shose a clouting/the steward was angry and saide wenest thou that I am blynde here dwelleth a goldsmith/what ist than said the pson he hath clowted myshone/ and my lorde sent me to hym because they shold be clenly done to thentent that I sholde make his hall nomore fowle with my noughty shone/and so they went into the house to se the shone the which were done accordinge to the parsons mynde/ wherwith the stewarde was right sore abasshed/ and sayde nay parson my lorde wyll nat alowe me this thou getest no money of me for of suche shose haue I no commaũdement/ and so went they chydinge away till they com to the duke which maruapled sore what they ment and said why come pe thus chidinge/the stewarde answered and sayde my lorde pe haue prompsed this prestе to pape for the cloutynge of his shone/ and pe had bene better

to haue geuen hym.vi. payre of newe shone foe
the shoe cloutes alone besyde the platis aboue/
wayed.x. ounces of syluer/the parson sayd my
lorde your stewarde coude do nothynge but chi
de/what wyll he say so moche to it/it coste hym
nought/ & it pleseth your lordship well ynough
and I am sure ye be so gode and gracyous that
ye wyll geue me of your olde caste gere a payre
of hosen a doublet and a newe payre of shone to
for I pray dayly for your longe lyfe. Than said
the duke it is reson that I paye for the cloutinge
of your shone and ye shall haue them feched vn
to you/but ye must dyne with me at none wher
of the parson was contēt and gladde/ & thought
to make gode chere. ¶ Thus against dener the
duke cōmaunded that euery body shold beinge
at his table haue a trencheour layd before him
saue only the parson/and that there shold be no
more peces of mete in the dysshe than there we
re trencheours on the borde/and that euery one
sittynge at the borde sholde take his porsyon of
mete vpon his trencheour/the whiche cōmaun
dement was fulfylled and obeyed/and whan it
came to the tyme of dener euery man was com
maūded be the vssher for to sit downe/and they
were serued all/but the preste gate nothing be-
fore hym/wherat the lorde laughed and bed hī
ete and be of gode chere/the preste saide agayne

J ete and J fast/ J spare my mouth and rest my
tetly/the duke spake agayne and saide it is a ma
ner in our courte that no man take mete frome
others trencheours/for that a man hath on his
trencheour it is his J promyse you be my fauth/
thus ware the dysshes emtye and eury one had
mete ynoughe saue only the preste whiche sate
and loked on euery syde lyke a fole and saide J
wolde J ware at home be my wenche now for
she sholde fyll my belp with some gode meus/J
se well here the full belp knoweth nat what the
hongry apleth. The duches seinge this laughed
a grete pace and said to him sir parson as ye ser-
ue other so be ye serued. And thus they passed
their dener with moche gode laughinges and
sportus. With that come in the golde smythe y
brought with hym the shone/than saide the du-
ke to hun/master who lerned you forto clowte
shone in this maner/he answered and saide the
preste my lorde/ well geue them him ye shalbe
payde. Than he dyd them on and went galātly
and loked on his shone/than saide the lady/the
parson is nowe a gape man with his shoes/the
parson answered and sayde O gode lady it was
great nede for J go ofentymes betwene kalen-
borowe and your court and were many shone.
but sportinge and gestinge the preste gate what
he wolde and so toke his leue y thought alwaye

howe the duke had sayde what a man hathe on his trẽcheour is his owne and here vpon ymagined a wyle and caused a trencheour to be made/ brode ynough to set an horse with his foure fete vpon it standynge.

¶ Howe the parson brought the dukes horse vpon his trencheour.

Upon a season it befell that the Duke
wolde ryde a sportynge / and caused
his company to make them redy and
his hors for to be sadeled wherof the
parson had knowlege lightely & brought with
him to courte his brode trencheour and layde it
downe upon the grounde and shyfted so that he
gate the dukes horse upon it / & whan the Duke
come forthe he salewed hym / and the duke bed
him welcome and asked hym what tydinges &
he saide againe I knowe nothyng but gode / but
my lorde remember pe well whan I was pour
geste that pe saide what a man had on his tren-
cheour that was his owne / & the Duke saide pe
what I saide shall stande / than saide the parson
O noble lorde alwaye must pour worde stande
in suche effect / Nowe gracious lorde loke what
Fortune hathe geuen me upon my trencheour
I trust no man shall drawe it nor take it frome
me / no saide the lorde and therwith he laughed
but pe must nedis lende it me tell I come home
againe frome huntynge and than I wyll geue
pou another that shall be more prestelyer than
this / for this is not for no prestes flesshe to sit on
and specially whan the wyne is in pou brayne /
for if pe sholde sit than upon hym without dout
pe shold fall / thus he gat an esy hors of the duke
to ryde upon as it semed / for he com after that

rydinge in a donge carte vpon it as hereafter is
shewed/ and than caused he his trēche[illegible]ur to be
borne home agayne/ and by and by he come to
the duke and desyred hym to geue hym forage
for his horse/ the noble duke saide bring a sacke
and feche otes for thy horse/ and lat nat thy sack
be to smal/ the parson was wyly and fissged on
his praye and come home and toke a gret hop-
sacke and layd it on his cart and come so rydīge
to the court that all the people wondred to se hī
so/ than he lighted frome the carte and toke his
sacke in his armes and went streight to the du-
kes prouydour and bed him in the dukes name
to fyll his sacke with otes/ the prouydour behol
dinge this grete sacke said vnto him/ thou mad
preste wenest thou that my lorde wyll alow the
that/ nay hardely nor nought getest of me/ but
if thou wylt haue it full of haye that wyll I geue
the/ the preste saide naye I am no fole/ geue nat
me no chaffe for chese/ for my lorde promysed
me otes. than thought the prouidour this preste
wyll begyle me/ and so he went to the duke and
tolde him of the prestes subtill wyle/ wherwith
the duke laghed full hartely/ and sayd god geue
hym sorowe fyll hym his sacke and let hym go
for he is to falce for vs all/ and thus gate he bo-
the horse ⁊ horsmete ⁊ so went home agayne.

¶ Howe the parſon come to court in a donge cart rydinge on his horſe.

IT befell vpon a ſhroftyde that the noble duke wold be merp to reioyce his lordes and ladyes & all his houſholde and becauſe they ſholde be the more merper he ſent for the parſon of kalenborowe that he ſhold come in his courtlieſt maner vnto the courte. ¶e heringe this obeyed the dukes cõmaundement and made hym redy in this maner. ¶e cauſed a donge carte for to be broughte forthe and horſes for to drawe it/ and his owne hors aboue in the carte/ and he him ſelfe vpon his hors backe & come to the court in preſence

of the duke and al the states which bad him har
tely welcome/ and all the people had gret mar
uayle of the parsons mad copes and his foulsye
fantasies. Than rode the duke a hunninge with
all his lordes and ladyes / and the parson folo-
wed after in his donge cart wherat they had all
grete game and sporte. Than came the duches
and she bed him welcome also / and he thanked
her right hartely/she saide again ye be verely a
wonders courtyer as euer we se in our dayes /
The parson said gracious lady I can no skyll of
your courte nor court maners / But this is the
maner of my court therfore take my gode wyll
a worthe / Than laghed the lady and saidye ha
ue done very well/ & thus in the chase they had
right gode game and amonge them there was
slayne .ij. hertes that day/wherof the duke and
his noble company were glad and so they sped
them homwarde agayn. and than the duke thā
ked the parson and saide unto him thus/my par
son it shall auayle you and be to your grete pro
fyte that ye come to our court so manerly after
your court facyon if that I lyue.

¶ Howe .iiij. of the dukes courte rode to
the parsons place where as they we
re shamfully discepued.

VPon a tyme it befel that the duke sent out .iiij. of his gentylmen on his besi-nes/ & in their retourne as they come homwardes they wold wyste the par-son of kalenborow/ and so com to his house som what late in the night and the parson receyued them right well and sayde gode gentylmen fro whens come ye thus late/ They answered and sayd vpon their lordes besynes and our horses be very wery/ wherfore nowe we entende for to tary with you all this night/ and the parson said to them ye be welcom and made thē gode chere and made them so dronke that thei knew nat themselfe & than he tolde them that he wold

go to bed and bad theim take their pleſure and
ſit as longe as they lyſt and ſhewed them their
beddis and bad them gode night for he muſt ne
dis do maſſe on the morowe/ ¶ ſo departed from
them and wapted his tyme tyll they were a bed
for to do them a ſhrode turne/and within a whi
le they went to bed and ſlept lyke dronken ſwi-
ne/and than the preſte com to loke yf they were
a ſlepe/ ¶ ſpyed that they ſlept ſo faſt that it was
nat well poſſible to waken them/ and he ſe that
and to go as faſt as he coud and warmed a gret
dele of thicke wyne lyes and went therwith vn
to their bed and lifted vp the couering and flap-
ped their arſes full of thoſe lyes or dregges as
if they had ſhytten in their bed/ and ſo went fro
thens into the ſtable ¶ toke out their horſes that
were goodly and luſty to ride vpon/and in ſtede
of them he ſet in .iiij. lene trottynge maris/ and
than he went to bedde as of nothynge knowing
And within a while after one of them wakened
¶ felt his felowes arſe in his lappe all beſhitten
wherwith he cryed out and ſaide fye for ſhame
man knoweſt thou nat the meſure of thy help
but that thou muſt ſhyte in thy bedde awake for
ſhame/ And therwith he wakened and turned
hym about and ſo caſt his arme ouer his felow
and founde hym ſo beſhitten to/ that all the bed
was arayd with ſhere dirt ſo ſhamfully that all

they wondred on eche other and made a fowle
noyse/wherwith they in the other bedde awa-
kened and founde themselfe bothe so shamfully
beswitten that they were ashamed eche of other
and cryed out upon eche other/saynge this is a
shamfull rebuke for vs all as euer fortuned vs
that we haue bene so well entreted and through
our drōkenes that we haue done so vilanously
more lyker captifs than gentylmen whiche is
to our great rebuke and dishonour/but what re
medy saide the one/I can nat tell said the other
nor I saide the thirde/I wolde we were frome
hens said the fourth with halfe our oneslye but
the best therof is this/we come hether be darke
night & it is best that we departe or it be day/for
than the preste shall haue no parfyte knowlege
what we be/for without dout if he know vs we
be shamed for euer for the deuyll brought vs to
this shame/let vs aray vs quickely and gete vs
out be the darke or euer the yson be vp/& let vs
chyde nomore for this beshitten mater/and in-
continent they rose vp in haste withouten lyght
and went darklonge into the stable and sadeled
their horses and went to the parsons chamber
dore and toke leue of him/& so they rode a grete
whyle or it was day/and whan the day apered
one of them spyed and saide to his felowe what
me thinke ye ryde on an olde scald mare that ha-

the drawen.wh.pere i the plough/the other ſaid agayne thou lyeſt be goddes bleſt/thou haſte be ſhit thy bed as well as I and yet thou wylt mocke and ſcorne with me/another ſaide thou haſte ſtolen the parſons horſe/and with that they loked eche vpon other my frendes let vs ſtande ſtyll a whyle and beholde eche others hors wel for me thynke we be begyled/and ſo they perceiued all that they rode vpon plowe mares ¶ ſaid to eche other the deuyl brought vs on the preſte for becauſe we haue beſhit his beddes we muſt ryde vpon theſe rotten iades/and thus thei rode complaynige eche to other but to no body elles for very pure ſhame.

¶ Howe that the paiſans wolde bye no croſſe baner/and therfor they folowed the parſons bre the.

It fortuned i the rogacion dayes that the parſon wolde that all the croſſes ſholde haue baners/ and there ware none in his churche/than hanged he one of his olde breches vpon a croſſe ſtaffe & his pariſſyeners folowed it of the which thei were ſore abaſſhed and went to theyr parſon & ſayde ye do vs grete ſhame/if ye lacke ought ſpeke to vs and it ſhalbe prouyded/and than they cauſed baners to be made and veſtimentis/copes/chalices/bokes/and al other ornamētis to the churche belonginge/wherof the parſon prayſed thē ſore/ and ſaide ſo doinge they ſholde be beloued of almighty god/and euer after thei dyd the cōmaundement of their gode parſon.

¶ Howe the parſon kept kyne i the felde.

My welbeloued bretheren and sistren/ in many vilages hereabout it is a co-stomable vse that they haue a cõmon herdman to kepe their bestes the whi che is rewarded of them all in generall/ but we in our parissye must kepe our bestes be course/ as nowe one and than another and no man fa-uoured/ wherfor I wolde we sholde hire one a-mõge vs al and that euery man payd alike mo che towardes his hyre/ but for all the parsons counsell the vilains wolde none of that/ and at the last it fell to the parsons lotte that he sholde kepe the bestes a felde/ and was warned of the baylif ouer nyght that he sholde kepe the bestes on the morow/ wherwith the parson was very angry in himselfe that they wolde nat honoure the sacramẽt of presthode/ but made of a preste a howherde/ he cõmaunded his seruãt to gader and assemble all the kyne of the parissye and to leue none at home/ but to bring them all on the churchepardesyde against that the masse ware done/ and his cõmaundement was obeyed/ and thus whã his masse was done/ in the same and selfe ornamentis and in the same maner as he did masse in/ so come he streght frome the auter and wẽt to dryue the kyne & bestes a felde with a litell bell hãginge on his backe and a staffe in his one hande/ and a whippe in the other hand

ſingynge with a lowde voyce / Ego ſum paſtor bonus. That is to ſay I am a gode herder / whan the payſans herde hym thus come ſingynge / & the lytell bell thus ringinge / all that was in the village come rōninge out wenynge that it had bene the ſacrament comig / but it was their par ſon that went thorugh thicke and thinne with the ornamentis on his backe / wherwith his pa riſſheners were angry and ſayde our parſon is madde wherfore deſtroyeth he our churche or namentis thus.

¶ Howe the baylif com with the churche wardens into the felde where as the parſon kept the beſtes / and there they aſked him why he mar red the church iewellis.

Whan the parissheners se in the felde this onresonable dede of their ꝑson thei made a grete complaint to the baylif and iustice sainge that the parson did gret outrage wherwith they were all right wroth and the baylif/iustice and comons went all to the parson in the feldes where as he was keppynge of theyr kyne/and whā they come at him they asked hym why he destroyed their ornamētis so lewdly/he answered and saide is it against your wyll/and doth it nat plese you/they saide againe no we be nat cōtent therwith/Than saide the parson to theym thus/my dere frendes ye shal understande one thinge/that I am and must be a gostly herdmā and keper of your pore soules/and I ought for to be in my churche and say my seruice/and nat to be in the felde kepinge of your bestes/and I wyll vse you to knowe me for a preste/and that you and all they that go be the waye shall se that I ame a preste be myn araye to thentēt that the sacramēt of prestehod shold be honoured Than saide they euerichone/sir for the loue of god forgeue it vs and from hensforth there shall neuer preste be put to so disonest an office in this parisshe and prayed hym that they might lyue together with eche other in loue and pece as they did many yeres [illegible] the lawes of almyghty god and after that he changed benefice for another